

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

- Amendments -

Applicant respectfully requests that the pending claims be amended as indicated in the accompanying amended page(s), in which:

- Claim 1 is amended to better define the invention.

By these amendments, claims 1 to 5 remain pending. Applicant submits that no new matter has been added by these amendments.

- Remarks -

35 USC §112

Claim 1 is amended to remove the last paragraph amended into claim 1 submitted on 13 February 2008.

35 USC §103(a)

Claim 1 is rejected under §103(a) over Jeong (US 6,672,699) in view of Watrobski et al. (US 2002/0140758) in view of Morita et al. (US 6,705,715).

Claim 1 as pending, and before the amendments filed with this response, is respectfully submitted to be novel and inventive over the combination of cited references.

Claim 1 recites a step of replacing the starter cartridge with another of said number of cartridges having an improved performance characteristic. It is noted that the feature of “*having an improved performance characteristic*” relates to the cartridge. That is, it is the cartridge itself that has an improved performance characteristics, and which is used to replace the starter cartridge.

The rejection contends that the above feature is taught by Morita et al. This contention is respectfully traversed. Morita et al., at col. 21, lines 51-67, describes that a cartridge for photographic printing may be replaced with a head cartridge for monochrome printing for printing text at a high speed. It is submitted, however, that the head cartridge for monochrome printing does not itself have an improved performance characteristic over that

of the cartridge it replaced. Rather, the head cartridge for monochrome printing is identical in performance to the cartridge it replaced. That text can be printed at high speed is due to the monochrome and simple nature of text, and not to the fact that the monochrome head cartridge replaced the photographic cartridge.

The above notwithstanding, claim 1 is amended to better define the invention. As amended claim 1 recites an additional step of replacing the cradle with a cradle having a plurality of print engine controllers. It is respectfully submitted that none of the cited references teach or suggest this feature.

Claims 2 to 5 are dependent from claim 1, and submitted to be novel and inventive over the cited references for at least the same reasons as presented above in relation to claim 1.

Favorable reconsideration of the application in light of the above amendments and remarks is respectfully requested. Applicant looks forward to word of further official communication in due course.

Very respectfully,

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